

REVISION 01 09/24/93

OPI: IO/SOS

POST-MORTEM DISPOSITION OF POULTRY

I. PURPOSE

The purpose of this directive is threefold:

- A. To clarify the difference between the disposition of carcasses missing all of the viscera and carcasses missing part of the viscera;
- B. To eliminate the procedure of "pooling" viscera in poultry; and
- C. To provide post-mortem disposition guidelines.

II. CANCELLATION

FSIS Directive 6210.1, dated 2-4-87.

III. REFERENCE

MPI Regulation 381.76(a).

IV. REASON FOR REISSUANCE

This directive has been reorganized and rewritten to clarify FSIS policy on the post-mortem disposition of poultry carcasses missing all or part of the viscera.

V. POLICY

A. A uniform policy must be followed in poultry slaughter establishments for the disposition of carcasses with part or all of the viscera missing. MPI Regulation 381.76(a) states that "...No viscera or any part thereof shall be removed from any poultry processed in any official establishment, except at the time of post-mortem inspection, unless their identity with the rest of the carcass is maintained in a manner satisfactory to the inspector until such inspection is made."

B. A clear distinction must be made between carcasses categorized as having "no viscera" and those "missing part of the viscera." Absence of such a distinction has contributed to a lack of uniform disposition nationwide. This lack of uniform disposition has been magnified by the implementation of the Streamlined Inspection System (SIS), New Line Speed (NELS) Inspection System, and the New Turkey Inspection (NTI) System, since these systems use the category "no

viscera" as an error in the presentation log.

VI. CATEGORIZING CARCASSES MISSING ALL OR PART OF THE VISCERA

- A. Carcasses are to be classified as having "no viscera" if:
 - 1. No visceral parts are present; or
 - 2. Some visceral parts are present, but all three "major organs" (heart, liver, spleen) are missing.

B. Carcasses are to be classified as "missing part of the viscera" if some visceral parts are present, including at least one major organ.

NOTE: For purposes of this classification, one-half or more of the liver will be considered the same as a whole liver.

VII. POOLING VISCERA

The procedure for pooling viscera separated from carcasses prior to inspection is neither practical nor easy to control sufficiently to ensure adequate inspection, especially in the new poultry inspection systems and, therefore, is no longer allowed.

VIII. POST-MORTEM DISPOSITION

A. A veterinary inspector-in-charge (IIC) is responsible for disposition accuracy. Under veterinary supervision, inspectors may condemn poultry carcasses, parts, or organs obviously unwholesome or unfit for human food. Any carcass showing signs of an abnormal physiological state but not obviously condemnable shall be retained for the veterinary medical officer, who shall make a judgment on the disposition as required by regulations.

B. Condemnations are to be recorded on FSIS Form 6000-16, Poultry Inspection - Lot Tally Sheet.

C. The disposition guidelines are as follows:

- 1. For a carcass(es) classified as "missing part of the viscera," the inspector shall:

- a. pass the carcass(es) as wholesome;
 - b. retain the questionable carcass(es) and/or viscera for veterinary disposition; or
 - c. condemn the carcass(es) per disease condition.

- 2. For carcass(es) classified as having "no viscera," the inspector shall hang back the carcass(es) for veterinary

disposition until the IIC can:

a. determine if the entire lot of "no viscera" carcass(es) should be retained due to the existence of pathological/unwholesome conditions; or

b. direct the on-line inspectors to pass carcasses in that lot, if pathological/unwholesome conditions do not exist.

D. The inspector's helper may assist the inspector in post-mortem inspection by:

1. Removing carcasses from the line;

2. Marking the FSIS Form 6000-16;

3. Identifying carcasses; and

4. Trimming defects and abnormalities (when time permits as specified in nontraditional inspection systems). If there are any questions regarding this directive, they should be referred to the next level of supervision.

Craig A. Reed
Deputy Administrator
Inspection Operations